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CIA-student links traced

By the Associated Press

New York

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Ramparts magazine, in disclosing secret ties between the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Student Association, bases its account primarily on information attributed to a former fund-raising chief of the association.

He is Michael Wood, a former director of development in charge of fund raising for the NSA. Mr. Wood, according to the magazine article, learned that the CIA was financing NSA from Philip Sherburne, who was president of the student association from 1965-66 and who is now studying law at Harvard.

Mr. Wood, a former student at Pomona College and civil-rights worker in the Watts section of Los Angeles, says in a statement accompanying the article that he had "betrayed the trust" of Mr. Sherburne in making the disclosures. He said he had acted to make public "a case study in CIA corruption."

"The specter of CIA infiltration of domestic institutions—and the covert creation of them—must horrify those who regard unfettered debate as vital to representative democracy," said Mr. Wood.

Charges disputed

The Ramparts article appears in the issue of the magazine due on newsstands next week. However, it was made available to news media in advance.

Ramparts describes the CIA as exerting such powerful control over the NSA "that it treated NSA as an arm of U.S. foreign policy." The magazine says that for 10 years the CIA used NSA, with its international student contacts, as a tool of foreign diplomacy, and as a junior cloak-and-dagger web to gather anti-Communist intelligence.

In Akron, Ohio, Dennis Shaul, NSA president in 1962-63 and now an Akron attorney, said it was not true that the CIA had infiltrated the ranks of American student leaders and had used students to spy.

Mr. Shaul said if he were still president, "I would continue to accept CIA funds because we were as influential in decisionmaking as they were."

"We had a number of priority programs that needed financing," he said. "And as long as we had control of the program, as long as we had the independence to set up our own programs we viewed the CIA just as any other funding source."

Regular contact

Mr. Shaul, who was graduated from Notre Dame University and Harvard Law School, said the manner in which the CIA-NSA link came to light was unfortunate. He said "this method of disassociation from the CIA prejudices all past NSA programs and individual leaders."

Ramparts says that the few students officials who were aware of the CIA relationship and were in regular contact with agency officers were given a full national security check.

The magazine says most of the association's leadership, elected to office from university campuses or hired to the organization's staff, knew nothing of the relationship.

"It was no surprise. I knew it all along," said Thomas Hayden, a leader in another student group, Students for a Democratic Society.

Mr. Hayden, now a worker for the Newark, N.J., community union project, was once a paid staff member for NSA. His passport was tentatively withdrawn in February, 1966, by the State Department for alleged violation of restrictions against United States travel to Communist North Vietnam.

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